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REMARKS

Claims 2-10 remain pending in the present application of which claims 2 and 10 are the only independent claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 2 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 10 have been amended to include the requirement "said registration means and said retrieval means uses use said first hash function and said first pointer table when enabled and said second hash function and said second pointer table when disabled." Disclosure for such requirement can be found (at least) in claim 2 as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Objections - Claims, Specification

Claims and specification stand objected to for various informalities. Applicants have since corrected these objected to informalities. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the claim and specification objections.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-9 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite because claim 1 recited "selected from the group" without sufficient antecedent basis for the word "group." Claim 2, which includes claim 1 limitations, has been amended to recited "a group" instead of "the group."

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawing objection.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 10 stands rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,665,297 to

Hariguchi ("Hariguchi"). Applicants have amended claim 10 to contain limitations from

Claim 2, which the Examiner notes contains allowable subject matter. Hariguchi does

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not disclose, teach, or suggest such a registration and retrieval means required by Claim 10 as presently amended.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection applied against Claim 10.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1, 3-5, 7-9 stand rejected as obvious over Hariguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,795 to Schnell. According to the Examiner, Hariguchi disclosed all limitations of Claim 2 with the exception of "said registration means and said retrieval means capable of being disabled by a synonym." The Examiner relied upon Schnell for disclosure of such a registration and retrieval means.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 2, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter, now contains the Claim 1 limitations plus the subject matter that the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter. All remaining claims now required such a registration and retrieval means. Neither Hariguchi nor Schnell disclose such registration and retrieval means.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection applied against Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9.

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Conclusion

Applicants have properly traversed each of the grounds for rejection in the Office Action, and therefore respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

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